

**Dr. Peterson**

**Consul General Pascal Le Deunff Reception**

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2012, 5-7 p.m., President's Residence

Welcome. Thank you all for joining us this evening to honor Consul General Pascal Le Deunff and express appreciation for the impact he has had on the Southeast region and in particular Georgia Tech. Val and I arrived at Georgia Tech in April 2009, and Consul General Pascal and Diane Le Deunff arrived in Atlanta in September of that same year. I feel so fortunate that our time together in Atlanta overlapped during this past three years. It has been a pleasure to partner with him, and we have benefitted from his vision and enthusiastic commitment in numerous ways.

One of the first things that I did when I came was to engage the campus community in the creation of a 25-year strategic plan. One of the five main goals of our strategic plan is to expand our global footprint and influence to ensure that we are graduating good global citizens. More than 40 percent of all Georgia Tech students have an international work, study or research experience before graduation, which uniquely prepares them for leadership and innovation in their careers and their communities. Of course our Georgia Tech Lorraine campus plays a big role in that.

In addition to enhancing learning experiences, we are committed to fostering international alliances to build research collaborations, and promote economic development.

It was Consul General Le Deunff's vision that he shared with Yves Berthelot to create our annual France-Atlanta event. The premier events in 2010 attracted more than 3,500 participants, and even more participated last year. France-Atlanta provides a unique opportunity for not just students, but anyone interested to explore the great country of France through cultural and humanitarian events, business workshops and

scientific symposiums. Consul General Le Deunff used his influence to bring some of the best and brightest from France to speak and perform France-Atlanta events.

He has been a friend to Georgia Tech in numerous other ways. We will miss having him in Atlanta, but we look forward to an ongoing relationship as he assumes his new position as head of international research and education partnerships at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Consul General Le Deunff, please accept this gift as a small token of Georgia Tech's appreciation for the tremendous job you have done.

Now, Yves Berthelot will say a few words and offer a toast.